(b) if so, the names of the organisations which have been given such aid so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Under the Central Scheme of Aid to Voluntary Organisations, grant-in-aid is given direct to the voluntary organisations of all India character engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for taking up specific schemes for the benefit of these communities.

(b) Grant-in-aid has been given to the following organisations so far during the current financial year:—

1. 'Jagran', Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.

2. Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Puri.

Abolition of Sales Tax on Bangles.

1182. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased refer to the reply to Starred Question 342 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 1983 and state:

(a) whether Govemnment have taken up the question of abolition of Sales Tax on bangles with the Delhi Administration and the State Governmetns of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the detils of the discussions held in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c) At the instance of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Delhi Administration had invited the views of the neighbouring States of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh regardng abolition of Sales Tax on bangles. The States of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Prdesh have informed that they are not in favour of gant of exemption from Sales Tax on bangles. No reply has been received from the Government of Punjab.

The matter was also considered by the Delhi Administration and it was decided that in view of the posision prevaling in the neghbouring States, bangles may not be exempted from the levy of Sales Tax.

Memorandum received from the association Bangle manufacturers

1183. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any memorandum from the Association of Bangle Manufacturers in Delhi about abolition of Sales Tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c) A memorandum was recently received from the Delhi Pradesh Bangle Merchants' Association pleading for abolition of Sales Tax on bangles in the UT of Delhi on the following consideration:—

(i) That this trade is carried on mostly by illiterate or semi-illiterate persons belonging to poorer clases of minority communities.

(ii) That manufacture of this item is done in individual houses and very often is a family concern of some poor man.

(iii) That the persons find it very difficult to keep account. More so the account books which can be shown to Government Department like Sales Tax, Income Tax.

(iv) That the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, M.P., Gujarat, Bihar, Bengal Maharashtra and Orissa have alredy abolished Sales tax on bangles.